

COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy Manual

444 WATCH COMMANDERS

444.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Each patrol shift must be directed by supervisors who are capable of making decisions and communicating in a manner consistent with department policies, procedures, practices, functions and objectives. To accomplish this goal, a Lieutenant heads each watch.

444.2 DESIGNATION AS ACTING WATCH COMMANDER

When a Lieutenant is unavailable or off duty as a Watch Commander, in most instances any qualified sergeant can act as Watch Commander. This policy does not preclude the Operations Bureau Commander designating a less senior officer as an acting Watch Commander when operational needs require or training permits. The Operations Bureau Commander may also act as the Watch Commander as he/she sees fit.

444.2.1 ACTING WATCH COMMANDER RESTRICTIONS

Certain policies and procedures that call for a Watch Commander's approval and/or action may be granted or completed by the acting Watch Commander. Those policies and procedures will specifically note that the acting Watch Commander is authorized for required purposes. If a policy does not specifically list the acting Watch Commander as a authorizing source, then only a Watch Commander with a rank equal to or greater than Lieutenant may grant approval or complete an action.